

hour work weeks. He's devoting more time now to his wife, family, and three grandchildren, not to mention their dog Loretta. Both he and Sue, the activities programmer at the special needs unit at the Vernon Green Nursing Home, were married before, he said, and family means a great deal to both of them.

Johnson divorced in his 20s, and his only child, 3-year-old son Jeremiah, was murdered 18 years ago in Texas by his ex-wife's drunken half-brother. Johnson says his grief almost destroyed him.

But his renewed interest in his Christian religion has made him forgive his former brother-in-law, who is out of prison after serving most of a 10-year sentence. "I forgive him. In God's eyes he's forgiven. But do I think he's a nice person? No.

"I don't believe in the death penalty. I'm a death penalty opponent," he says.

Religion helps him, he says, deal with his personal tragedy and job stress. And he uses his voice—"I sing tenor"—in the choir of the South Vernon Advent Christian Church, where both his grandfathers were pastors.

Back after lunch, Johnson makes a few calls to get the proverbial sound bite to flesh out a story from the AP about an issue in the governor's race relating to homosexuality and public education.

This afternoon, he will even do double duty, cueing up CDs for a missing DJ, expertly flipping through the playlist, selecting a song to fit the time slot and sliding it into the stacked CD players, all with seconds to go.

He dashes between music and news, cueing up disks and editing the sound bites he garnered from Vernon NEA President Angelo Dorta, all at amazing speed.

He's in his element.●

SUGAR BEETS

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to a disaster facing many Eastern Montanans. As you are aware, Montana has faced wildfires and drought this summer. Another type of disaster has struck the upper Yellowstone Valley. This region grows and processes about one million tons of sugar beets a year. Sugar beets must be harvested before the ground freezes to ensure the quality of the product. On October 4, 2000, temperatures dropped very low and a heavy frost impacted the area. The growers who are under contract to Holly Sugar are now left without a viable crop that, under normal conditions, would bring \$40 million to the area. This is the major cash crop for this part of Montana. Without this revenue, futures, jobs, and businesses will be in jeopardy. I bring this important matter to your attention today, so that you will be prepared to assist me in getting the necessary financial help to these producers whose very future may hinge on the help we can provide.●

TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, the year 2000 marks an occasion that is worthy of recognition by the Senate. The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii celebrates its sesquicentennial, marking

the 150th anniversary of its first meeting, on October 15, 1850, of a group of Honolulu businessmen at the behest of Hawaii's King Kamehameha III. They founded the Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, an organization that would lead the Hawaiian Islands' growth in trade, commerce, economic and social development through the years. The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii is the second-oldest chamber of commerce west of the Rockies, and the only American chamber founded under a monarchy.

The history of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii includes many, many accomplishments. I wish to provide a glimpse of their more notable achievements which I believe merit recognition.

In 1867, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii initiated negotiations for the first treaty of reciprocity in trade between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Hawaii.

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii authored the Hawaiian National Banking Act of 1884, allowing the establishment of the banking system that has evolved into Hawaii's current system.

In 1898, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii began its successful advocacy for a Hawaii-San Francisco Trans-Pacific cable.

The Hawaii Visitors Bureau, today known as the Hawaii Visitors and Conventions Bureau, was founded by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii in 1903. This agency has led the development of Hawaii's visitor industry, which today is the largest sector of Hawaii's economy.

In 1907, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii conducted a survey of the Pearl River to facilitate the construction of a harbor and dry dock that is now Pearl Harbor. The United States Pacific Command today provides a strong, forward based U.S. defense in the Asia-Pacific region from this great harbor.

In 1919, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii founded Aloha United Way, Hawaii's leading charitable organization which annually collects millions of dollars for the needy in Hawaii.

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii became the trustee of Hawaii's Public Health Fund in 1923. The Public Health Fund provides seed money for approximately 20 public health projects each year.

In 1928, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's aviation committee sought out airlines to provide the first inter-island air service.

In 1929, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii drafted a plan to increase the depth of Honolulu Harbor to accommodate modern ships and facilitate international trade. Today, Honolulu Harbor is our primary port of entry for the vast majority of all goods to Hawaii.

In 1941, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii founded the Blood Bank of Hawaii. Later that year, the services of the Blood Bank helped to save many lives when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7th, 1941.

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii was an active and vocal advocate for

statehood for Hawaii. In 1959, The Chamber joined other local advocates in celebrating Hawaii's statehood.

In 1978, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii played a leading role in Hawaii's State Constitutional Convention.

Throughout its 150-year history, and continuing today, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii has helped to support a strong U.S. economic and military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. As the economies of the region grow, The Chamber's continued support for a strong, forward based military presence that provides the stability prerequisite to prosperity will be important. The Chamber's continued work to promote economic development in the region will play a vital role in aiding the goals and interests of Hawaii and the United States in the Asia-Pacific region.

Congratulations to The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii on its 150th anniversary, and best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO EDMUND F. BALL

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, Hoosiers have been remembering and celebrating the remarkable life and achievements of one of our greatest citizens, Edmund F. Ball. I want to share with the nation a most appropriate tribute published in the Muncie Star Press of October 3, 2000 by Phil Ball.

The article follows:

Ed Ball took his last flight Sept. 30. This was an unscheduled flight but with a good pilot who probably let Ed handle the controls for some of the trip.

This was a flight into history—a flight into legend.

Ed died in Ball Memorial Hospital. Just across the street is the Edmund F. Ball Medical Education Center. And a half-mile away stands the Edmund F. Ball Building on the Ball State campus. A mile and a half away in Community Civic Center (once the Masonic Temple) is an assembly room named the Edmund Ball Auditorium. Those are just a few of the monuments to this most important citizen who has ever lived in our hometown of Muncie.

But Ed's life and times and image and achievements and generosity were his most important monuments.

Ed wasn't one to brag. Those who knew him knew his modesty and his tendency toward self-deprecating humor. One of Ed's witticisms was to say that after his life was over, all he had done was "to cross the street." To explain this, he pointed out that he was born on East Washington Street and when he died he would be laid out and prepared for burial at Meeks Mortuary across the other side of East Washington Street.

But in almost 96 years between those two events, Ed accomplished more than any 10 people and became a legend in his own time, although he would be the first to deny any such words of grandiloquence. This hometown of his and mine and yours has been the beneficiary of countless works of his mind and his generosity.

The last time I saw Ed was when he was hospitalized in June 1999 with a minor problem—heart trouble. I am glad that at that

time I did something to boost his morale and help erase one of his lifelong regrets. I made him an honorary member of my Old and Original and Valid Muncie Ball family.

Many people in the past have thought that Ed might be somehow related to me—it isn't really so. Ed's family were frost-bitten immigrants from Buffalo in 1887, whereas my family were already here and cultivating the soil in Delaware County by 1830.

Ed wrote me on June 12, 1999, and said he was pleased that he at long last had finally achieved good genealogical status—even though it was just honorary.

His type of man will not be seen again anytime soon, if ever. He was Muncie's man of the millennium.

Shakespeare said it best when he wrote the last words of Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, who lay dying. This is what Hamlet said: "The rest is silence."●

OPERATION IVORY SOAP

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today in tribute to the men and women who participated in a little known covert operation in World War II—Operation Ivory Soap. During World War II, "island hopping" was a critical element in the U.S. Pacific strategy. The idea was to capture Japanese held islands of tactical or strategic importance and by-pass any far-flung or inconsequential bases. Once an island was taken it was used as a forward airfield for aircraft returning from long-range missions where they were repaired, rearmed, and made ready for the next vital mission.

General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, Commander of the Army Air Forces, recognized the need for forward-based, mobile air depots to support American bombers and fighters in the Pacific war. General Arnold and a panel of military officers determined the need for converting naval repair ships into hybrid aircraft depot ships. Eventually, six 440-foot-long Liberty ships and 18 smaller 180-foot-long auxiliary vessels would be modified into Aircraft Repair Units, carrying 344 men, and Aircraft Maintenance Units, manned by 48 troops. Everything from the smallest aircraft parts to complete fighter wings were carried on these ships. The repair and maintenance facilities were manned 24-hours a day and the Liberty ships included platforms to land the "new" helicopter for quick ship-to-shore repair transport.

The Army Air Force crews that manned these ships had to be trained to understand the nautical aspect of life at sea. Colonel Matthew Thompson of the Army Air Force was given the mission to turn airmen into seamen. Called back from Anzio in Italy, the Colonel had less than two weeks to organize the training program.

The Grand Hotel in Point Clear, AL, was the focal point for "Operation Ivory Soap" training. Colonel Thompson contacted the then owner, Mr. Strat White-Spunner, regarding the use of the hotel as his base of operations where he intended to instill basic seamanship, marine and aquatic training in the Army officers and men of the

aircraft repair and maintenance units. As a donation to the war effort, Mr. Roberts turned the Grand Hotel and its facilities over to the US Army Air Force to be used as its Maritime Training School. Operation Ivory Soap training began on July 10, 1944.

Using the Grand Hotel, officers and men moved in and began living in "Navy style." All personnel referred to the floors as decks, kept time by a ship's bell and indulged in the use of tobacco only when the "smoking lamp" was lit. The courses included swimming, special calisthenics, marching, drill, navigation, ship identification, signaling, cargo handling, ship orientation, sail making, amphibious operations, and more. Two men from each ship were also trained to be underwater divers. During a five month period, the school turned out 5,000 highly-trained Air Force seamen. When they and their ships went to war, so did Colonel Thompson. The men of the operation participated in the landings in the Philippines, Guam, Tinian, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Fighter aircraft and B-29s taking off from these bases flew continuous missions over Japan. Many lives, as well as aircraft, were saved because of the men of the aircraft repair and maintenance units.

Perhaps the greatest tribute I can make to the exploits of these sea-going airmen is to paraphrase the Merchant Marines who worked with them and who praised them as "equal to any sea-going combatants they had ever served with." This is a testament to their skill and professionalism and the ability of this nation to adjust its resources to defeat the enemy. The Grand Hotel still stands elegantly on the banks of the Mobile Bay. A hotel whose rich southern history embodies the best traditions of this country.●

JUDGE ROMAN S. GRIBBS, JUDGE FOR THE MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to rise today to acknowledge a distinguished public servant, from my home state of Michigan, Judge Roman S. Gribbs, who will be retiring from the bench of the Michigan Court of Appeals, at the close of this year. In November, hundreds of his colleagues, friends and family will celebrate the career of this gentleman of the bench who played a distinct role in shaping Michigan's history.

Judge Gribbs dedicated his academic and professional life to studying, teaching, enforcing, practicing and interpreting the laws that govern the citizens of Michigan. He excelled in his studies at the University of Detroit where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1954, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He taught at his alma mater from 1954 through 1956 and served as an Adjunct Professor and Faculty member at the University of Michigan and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He implemented the law as an Assistant Wayne

County Prosecutor from 1956 through 1964 and in his service to the City of Detroit as presiding Traffic Court Referee.

In 1968, Roman Gribbs' career in the law took a new turn when he was appointed, then elected, Sheriff of Wayne County. His commitment to strong and fair enforcement of the law earned him respect far beyond the boundaries of Michigan's most populous county.

In 1969, Sheriff Gribbs was elected mayor of the city of Detroit, just 2 years after the city had endured one of the most destructive civil disturbances in the Nation's history. Under his leadership, the people of Detroit began to heal the city's wounds, to bridge their differences and to build their common future. As a newly elected member of Detroit's City Council in those years, I can testify with first hand knowledge to the debt this great American city owes to the calm, determined leadership of Mayor Roman Gribbs.

After stepping down as mayor, Roman Gribbs followed his love for the law and won a seat on the bench of the Third Judicial Circuit and then on the Michigan Court of Appeals where he has served the people of Michigan with a high standard of ethics and courage.

In addition to being a dedicated man of the bench, Judge Gribbs also finds solace in his involvement in the arts. His interest in the humanities and the cultural arts is evidenced through his service as a member of the Founders Society of the Detroit Institute of Art, the Detroit Historical Society and the Michigan Opera Theater.

Despite all that Judge Gribbs has accomplished in a life of service to others those of us fortunate enough to have enjoyed his friendship may admire him most for the quiet qualities we have seen in him over many years—his unyielding integrity, his uncommon decency and perhaps most amazingly, given the tumultuous times he has lived in, his gentleness.

Judge Gribbs can take pride in his long career of service and dedication to the law and to the people of Michigan. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting this man from Michigan, and in wishing him well in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER CATHERINE A. WILSON

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, as the 106th Congress draws to a close, I stand to pay tribute to a distinguished Navy officer who served as a Congressional Science Detail on my staff during this Congress. Commander Catherine Wilson, United States Navy, was selected for this highly coveted position as a result of her outstanding training, experience, and accomplishments. Her superb performance and impeccable credentials earned her the respect and admiration of the Senate staff. She distinguished herself rapidly as a professional who possessed a pleasant demeanor, tremendous integrity, decisive